

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 79
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.12.2025

India's Ranking in Forest Area

79. SHRI DHAIRYASHEEL SAMBHAJIRAO MANE:
SHRI CHAVAN RAVINDRA VASANTRAO:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is true that India has been ranked ninth country in the world in terms of total forest area by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in its Global Forest Resources Assessment 2025;
- (b) if so, the details of India's total forest cover as per the said assessment and its comparison with the previous report;
- (c) the extent to which 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' initiative by the Prime Minister has been successful in increasing the forest area in the country since the beginning of the said initiative; and
- (d) the details of other major initiatives and schemes/programmes implemented/being implemented by the Government to increase green cover in the country during the last three years and the current year?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) to (b) As per the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation's Global Forest Resources Assessment (GFRA) 2025, released on 22 October 2025, India has been ranked ninth in the world in terms of total forest area. This marks an improvement from the previous assessment, in which India was ranked tenth.

Further, Forest Survey of India (FSI), Dehradun, an organization under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, carries out the assessment of forest and tree cover of the country biennially and the findings are published in the India State of Forest Report (ISFR). The forest cover assessment is a wall-to-wall mapping exercise based on remote sensing supported by intensive ground verification and field data from the National Forest Inventory. As per ISFR 2023, the total forest and tree cover of the country is 8,27,356.95 square kilometer which is 25.17% of the geographical area of the country.

(c) to (d) A plantation campaign "एक पेड़ माँ के नाम #Plant4Mother" has been launched on the occasion of World Environment Day 2024 and in the current year also to undertake plantation activities across the country. This campaign follows the "Whole of Government" and "Whole of Society" approach with participation of all stakeholders for increasing the green cover in the country. The campaign has contributed large scale plantation aiding the enhancement of green cover in the country.

In addition, the Ministry provides technical and financial support to the States /UTs for protection, conservation and management of forests in the country. This includes funds from the Central Government under various schemes and programmes such as National Mission for a Green India (GIM), Forest Fire Prevention and Management Scheme (FPM), Nagar Van Yojana (NVY), Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats and Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats and Tangible Incomes (MISHTI). Afforestation is also carried out by the States/UTs under the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA). The funds provided under the various schemes support the efforts of States and Union Territories to enhance forest and tree cover through ecological restoration measures such as afforestation within and outside forest areas, forest landscape restoration, habitat improvement, soil and water conservation, protection activities, and other related interventions.
